



CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

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February 26, 2007

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the more than 250,000 activists and supporters of the Center for Individual Freedom (CFIF), I am writing in support of your December 2006 proposal for a nationwide interoperable broadband public safety network.

The events of 9/11 and recent national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina have demonstrated that the current fragmented approach to public safety communications is not adequate to address the needs of first responders and the citizens they serve. The FCC's proposal currently being considered would replace the inadequate system with a standardized and national approach. This is precisely what is needed to implement the prior interoperability directives by the 109th Congress (DTV) and the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Indeed, the proposal accomplishes those goals by making the most efficient use of spectrum resources possible, while still promoting the rapid delivery of a robust broadband network and a system that will satisfy the voice and data needs of smaller and rural communities.

Moreover, your FCC proposal would leverage the use of commercial technologies and promote public-private partnerships in a more equitable and taxpayer-friendly fashion than other recent and ill-conceived plans.

For example, CFIF was pleased to see that you rejected the proposal from Cyren Call that would have used a substantially larger amount of spectrum, while robbing the government (and therefore taxpayers) of potential revenue from auctioning that spectrum. While we appreciate novel ideas, we believe that it is mandatory that the Commission be wary of proposals that would benefit one private party while damaging the larger public good. The auction of spectrum has raised billions of dollars in the past, and Congress recognized its value when it passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

Now, two years later, we must begin to see real progress in the development of a seamless public safety network, one that will allow various departments and agencies to share voice and data communications.

Please accept our commendation on your proposal. We anticipate that it will be well-received and the FCC will soon be able to approve it and move forward with implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Mazzella', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Mazzella
President